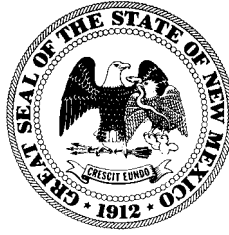


State of New Mexico



Office of the Attorney General
PATRICIA A. MADRID

PRESS RELEASE

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Attorney General Madrid Agrees with Judge's Decision in Voter ID Case Ruling

(Albuquerque, NM)—In her role as attorney for the Secretary of State, Attorney General Patricia Madrid stated that she agrees with Judge Robert Thompson's decision to deny the plaintiffs' request for immediate injunctive relief. After hearing the evidence, the judge determined that given how close we are to election day the extraordinary and substantial injury to the voting process that could occur if the plaintiffs received what they were demanding outweighed the alleged harm to the plaintiffs.

"The plaintiffs wanted all individuals who registered to vote in person for the first time in New Mexico after June 30, 2003, and who did so in any way other than by appearing in person at a County Clerk's office, to present certain forms of identification that had to match the name and address on the voter roll before being allowed to cast a vote that would count at the polling place in the November general election," said Attorney General Madrid.

"Placing this additional qualification on the right to vote as demanded by the plaintiffs is not required under the State's Election Code," said Attorney General Madrid. "Imposing this unauthorized requirement could have disenfranchised great numbers of otherwise qualified voters. We need to protect an open and fair election in which every registered, qualified voter has the ability to participate effectively in the November general election."

Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron commented, "Judge Thompson's decision further strengthens our position that voter registration fraud is not a legitimate issue in New Mexico and that frivolous attempts to disrupt the election process by disenfranchising legally registered voters cannot be tolerated. The only body that has authority to change our election laws is the New Mexico Legislature. I want to commend the Attorney General's office for the excellent work they did on behalf of New Mexico's voters."

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